

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, claims 1-17 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 18-34 are presented for examination. New claims 18-34 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 18-34 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-17.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/SNS:sjh

I:\ATTY\SNS\278076US-PR.DOC

---

Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423  
Attorneys of Record